

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for heating an infant comprising:
a surface for supporting ~~said~~ the infant,
an upper cover configured to extend over said surface and including a substantial portion which may be configured to at least a substantially visually opaque state or a substantially visually transparent state,
at least one radiant heater between the infant and ~~integrated with, supported by,~~
~~connected to or otherwise in immediate proximity to~~ said cover, and
a controller or processor configured to energise said at least one radiant heater such that in use the skin temperature of ~~said~~ the infant is regulated substantially within a predetermined range whilst enclosed by said cover in said visibly opaque state.
2. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for heating an infant as claimed in claim 1 wherein said apparatus further comprises temperature sensing means for sensing the skin temperature of at least one position on ~~said~~ the infant, the output of which is supplied to said controller or processor.
3. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for heating an infant as claimed claims 1 or 2 wherein said portion comprises at least one liquid crystal panel integrally formed with said cover.
4. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for heating an infant as claimed in claim 3 wherein the remainder of said cover excepting said portion is substantially visually opaque.

5. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for heating an infant as claimed in either claim 1 or 2 wherein said cover is substantially composed of liquid crystal panels.
6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for heating an infant as claimed in claims 1 or 2 wherein said cover includes a first access means for partial access to ~~said~~ the infant.
7. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for heating an infant as claimed in claim 6 wherein said cover is configurable between a closed position in which it substantially seals against said surface and an open position for full access to ~~said~~ the infant.
8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for heating an infant as claimed in claim 1 further comprising a lower radiant element in proximity with said surface and wherein said at least one radiant heater comprises an upper radiant element in proximity with said cover ~~and a lower radiant element in proximity with said surface.~~
9. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for heating an infant as claimed in claim 8 wherein said upper radiant element comprises a resistive ink printed on the underside of said cover.
10. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for heating an infant as claimed in claim 8 wherein said surface includes a mattress being transparent to infra-red wave length radiant energy, said lower radiant element being located underneath said mattress.

11. (Original) An apparatus for heating an infant as claimed in claim 10 wherein said lower radiant element comprises:

a housing means including a contact surface for contacting the underside of said mattress,

one or more radiant heating elements disposed within the bulk of said housing means in a location spaced from said contact surface and,

an infrared radiation barrier means blocking infrared radiation from said elements in directions away from said contact surface; said housing means incorporating infrared transmission means between said elements and at least adjacent regions of said contact surface, and said adjacent regions of said contact surface being infrared transmissible also.

12. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for heating an infant as claimed in claims 10 or 11 wherein said temperature sensing means are disposed on the upper surface of said mattress which in use contacts with the skin of ~~said~~ the infant and measuring the skin temperature thereof.

13. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for heating an infant as claimed in claim 1 further comprising humidification means for providing humidified gases to ~~said~~ the infant.

Claims 14-19 (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for heating an infant as claimed in claim 1 further comprising:

~~a surface for supporting said infant;~~

~~a rigid rounded upper cover configured to extend over said surface,~~
~~at least one radiant heater integrated with, supported by, connected to or otherwise in~~
~~immediate proximity to said cover,~~
a humidifier configured to provide humidified air within said cover,
a said controller or processor further configured to ~~energise said at least one radiant~~
~~heater such that in use the skin temperature of said infant is regulated substantially within a~~
~~predetermined range whilst enclosed by said cover, and energise said humidifier to~~
substantially prevent insensible water loss from ~~said~~ the infant.

21. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for heating an infant as claimed in claim 20 wherein said apparatus further comprises temperature sensing means for sensing the skin temperature of at least one position on ~~said~~ the infant, the output of which is supplied to said controller or processor.

22. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for heating an infant as claimed in claim 21 wherein said cover is configurable between a closed position in which it substantially seals against said surface and an open position for full access to ~~said~~ the infant.

23. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for heating an infant as claimed in claim 22 wherein said at least one radiant heater comprises an upper radiant element in proximity with said cover and a lower radiant element in proximity with said surface.

24. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for heating an infant as claimed in claim 23 wherein said upper radiant element comprises a resistive ink printed on the underside of said cover.

25. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for heating an infant as claimed in claim 24 wherein said surface includes a mattress being transparent to infra-red wave length radiant energy, said lower radiant element being located underneath said mattress.

26. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for heating an infant as claimed in claim 1 comprising:

~~a surface for supporting said infant,~~

~~wherein said a rigid upper cover is rigid configured to extend over said surface and including a substantial portion which may be configured to at least a substantially visually opaque state or a substantially visually transparent state,~~

~~at least one radiant heater integrated with, supported by, connected to or otherwise in immediate proximity to said cover, and~~

~~a controller or processor configured to energise said at least one radiant heater such that in use the skin temperature of said infant is regulated substantially within a predetermined range whilst enclosed by said cover in said visibly opaque state.~~

27. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for heating an infant as claimed in claim 1 comprising:

~~a surface for supporting said infant,~~

~~wherein said a rounded upper cover is rounded configured to extend over said surface and including a substantial portion which may be configured to at least a substantially visually opaque state or a substantially visually transparent state,~~

~~at least one radiant heater integrated with, supported by, connected to or otherwise in immediate proximity to said cover, and~~

~~a controller or processor configured to energise said at least one radiant heater such that in use the skin temperature of said infant is regulated substantially within a predetermined range whilst enclosed by said cover in said visibly opaque state.~~

28. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for heating an infant as claimed in claim 1 comprising:

~~a surface for supporting said infant,~~

~~wherein said a one piece upper cover is formed as one-piece configured to extend over said surface and including a substantial portion which may be configured to at least a substantially visually opaque state or a substantially visually transparent state;~~

~~at least one radiant heater integrated with, supported by, connected to or otherwise in immediate proximity to said cover, and~~

~~a controller or processor configured to energise said at least one radiant heater such that in use the skin temperature of said infant is regulated substantially within a predetermined range whilst enclosed by said cover in said visibly opaque state.~~

29. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for heating an infant as claimed in claim 1 wherein said comprising:

~~a surface for supporting said infant;~~

~~an upper cover configured to extend over said surface and including a substantial portion which may be configured to at least a substantially visually opaque state or a substantially visually transparent state,~~

~~at least one radiant heater integrated with, supported by, connected to or otherwise in immediate proximity to said cover is configured to provide an even temperature distribution across said surface, and~~

~~a controller or processor configured to energise said at least one radiant heater such that in use the skin temperature of the infant is regulated substantially within a predetermined range whilst enclosed by said cover in said visibly opaque state.~~

30. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for heating an infant as claimed in claim 1 wherein said comprising:

a surface for supporting said infant;

~~an upper cover configured to extend over said surface and including a substantial portion which may be configured to at least a substantially visually opaque state or a substantially visually transparent state,~~

~~at least one radiant heater integrated with, supported by, connected to or otherwise in immediate proximity to said cover is distributed non-uniformly across said cover, and~~

~~a controller or processor configured to energise said at least one radiant heater such that in use the skin temperature of said infant is regulated substantially within a predetermined range whilst enclosed by said cover in said visibly opaque state.~~

31. (New) An apparatus for heating an infant comprising:

- a surface for supporting the infant,
- an upper cover configured to extend over said surface and including a substantial portion which may be configured to at least a substantially visually opaque state or a substantially visually transparent state,
- at least one radiant heater for heating the infant from above, said at least one radiant heater being within said cover, and
- a controller or processor configured to energise said at least one radiant heater such that in use the skin temperature of said infant is regulated substantially within a predetermined range whilst enclosed by said cover in said visibly opaque state.